



Mite Policy

USA Hockey adopted the American Development Model (ADM) in January 2009. ADM has since been adopted in various ways throughout USA Hockey at the District and Affiliate levels.

1. All Mite contests will be cross/half ice. **NO FULL ICE GAMES WILL BE PERMITTED!**
2. Travel associations are not allowed to field any 8U Mite travel teams.
3. All 8U Mites and younger should play in rink-based Mite ADM programs.
4. Teams for rink-based Mite ADM programs must be formed through a draft process. For large, rink-based ADM programs (4 or more drafted teams), tier play (Gold, Silver) will be allowed for like-skill players.
5. Each TAHA member association may have two (2) 8U Mite players (Mite Major) play-up on a 10U Squirt team, Each Member Association shall provide to TAHA the name/DOB of any such 8U Mite Major player as soon as he/she is added to a 10U team roster.
6. Remote, small market, rink-based ADM programs with limited players at 8U & 10U ages may combine such groups for practices and games to insure future program growth. Such programs must secure TAHA approval prior to the start of any organized play. TAHA will consider each request on a case-by-case basis.
7. "Grandfathering" and 8U Mite players on a team based outside their local hockey community are not permitted.
8. No birth-year specific Mite teams are permitted to play practices, games, scrimmages, or tournaments.
9. Rink-based programs with travel teams shall not field 8U Mite teams who travel beyond local metro area rinks to play games. Local rinks may include rinks in neighboring communities with limited options for play.
10. Invitational travel tournaments sanctioned by TAHA and USA Hockey shall not include a 8U Mite division.
11. Spring/Summer (Apr-Jul) camps/clinics for 8U Mite players (next season's Mites) must be ADM compliant. Such camps may allow 8U Mite players to play with non-8U players, but only if **ALL** play is ADM compliant.
12. Fall/Winter (Aug-Mar) camps/clinics for 8U players may only be run by rink-based Mite ADM programs.
13. Specifically, Mite players aging up into Squirts for the next season can begin to play Squirt after 4/1 each year. Rink-based programs are required to provide highly qualified, experienced coaches who can conduct cross-ice, ADM-style practices, games, and jamborees for its 8U Mite players and teams.
14. Travel associations are strongly encouraged to support local rink operators and provide qualified travel coaches of all levels to participate in rink-based, Mite ADM practices, cross-ice games, and jamborees. Travel associations may allow 8U players to participate in 10U tryouts in order to determine whether or not to choose up to two 8U players for its 10U teams.
15. To support this Mite ADM Policy, TAHA will provide financial grants on a request-only basis to purchase border patrols, hard dividers, or other equipment to facilitate cross/half-ice practices, games & jamborees.

All travel associations, rink operators, and any other entities that have any teams registered through TAHA with USA Hockey are required to comply with this Policy and are subject to sanctions for any violations. Sanctions will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the TAHA Board, and shall include any or all of the penalties listed below:

- Member Association Tier teams will not be eligible for state, district, or national tournament play.
- Member Association House/Rec teams will not be eligible for any league playoffs.
- Member Association teams will not be permitted to travel outside the Affiliate for games/tournaments.
- Member Association will be considered "not-in-good-standing" for the rest of the current season.
- Member Association will not be eligible for any TAHA grant monies, and may be subject to financial penalties (payment of which can be a condition of continued membership in TAHA).

Any other appropriate penalties or sanctions as determined by the TAHA Board of Directors.